

Message Text

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PAGE 01 HONG K 02237 050533Z

12
ACTION SS-15

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 SSO-00 /022 W
----- 022267

R 040435Z MAR 75
FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4015

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FOR DEPUTY SECRETARY INGERSOLL FROM CONSUL GENERAL CROSS

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: OVIP BEXP ETRD HK
SUBJECT: PARTICIPATION IN AMERICAN FORTNIGHT

1. I HAVE OFFERED TO SOUND YOU OUT IN ADVANCE OF AN INVITATION BY AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE IN HONG KONG TO OPEN THE AMERICAN FORTNIGHT ON OCTOBER 18, 1975. YOU PROBABLY KNOW THAT THE FORTNIGHT, WHICH IS THE LARGEST AND POSSIBLY THE MOST IMPORTANT US TRADE PROMOTION IN EAST ASIA THIS CALENDAR YEAR, IS JOINTLY SPONSORED BY THE AMERICAN CHAMBER AND THE CONSULATE GENERAL. EVER SINCE YOUR VISIT HERE IN JANUARY LAST YEAR, THE CHAMBER HAS MAINTAINED YOU AT THE HEAD OF ITS LIST AS A PRIME CANDIDATE FOR A RETURN ENGAGEMENT.

2. IF IT WERE AT ALL POSSIBLE FOR THIS EVENT TO BE FITTED INTO YOUR CALENDAR, I WOULD RECOMMEND IT TO YOU FOR SEVERAL REASONS. YOUR ATTENDANCE, OF COURSE, WOULD SERVE TO UNDERLINE THE IMPORTANCE THAT THE DEPARTMENT ATTACHES TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF US EXPORTS IN THIS REGION AS A WHOLE, BUT ESPECIALLY IN HONG KONG WHICH AT DOLLARS 500 MILLION HAS, AFTER JAPAN, THE NEXT LARGEST US TRADE DEFICIT IN ASIA. IT WOULD ALSO SERVE TO EMPHASIZE USG SUPPORT FOR HONG KONG AS THE SEAT OF THE SECOND BIGGEST AMERICAN BUSINESS COMMUNITY IN THIS PART OF THE WORLD.

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3. AMCHAM AND I ARE WELL AWARE THAT YOUR SCHEDULE IS EXTREMELY CROWDED AND THAT SUCH AN APPEARANCE, OR AT LEAST A COMMITMENT TO ONE SO FAR IN ADVANCE, COULD BE OUT OF THE QUESTION. HOWEVER, IN ORDER TO BE FORTHCOMING AND TO STRENGTHEN DEPT'S RELATIONS WITH THIS INFLUENTIAL TRADE ASSOCIATION, YOU MIGHT INDICATE INTEREST IN AN INVITATION ON THE BASIS THAT, SHOULD YOU BE UNABLE TO ATTEND, YOU WILL SUGGEST ANOTHER RANKING ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL WHO MIGHT BE INVITED FOR THIS IMPORTANT OCCASION. INVITATION AND YOUR REPLY COULD THEN BE USED AT THE APPROPRIATE TIME IN FORTNIGHT PUBLICITY.

4. PLEASE ADVISE. WARMEST PERSONAL REGARDS.
CROSS

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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